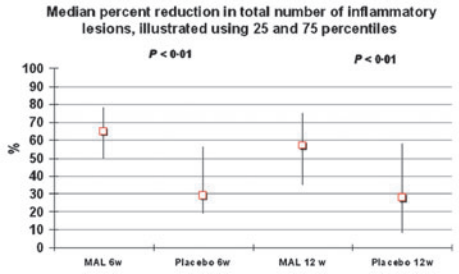
View metadata, citation and similar papers at core.ac.uk

brought to you by CORE

provided by Elsevier - Publisher Connector

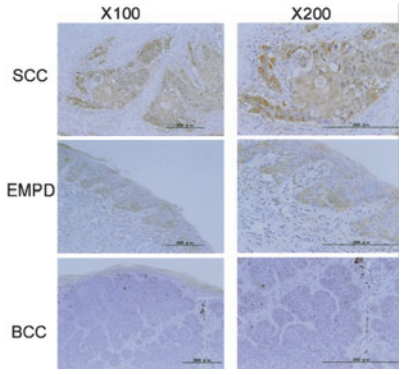


## Fine-needle aspiration with ultrasound guidance in patients with malignant melanoma and suspicious lymph nodes



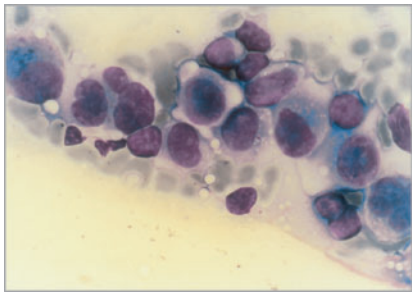

In patients followed after treatment of stage I–II melanoma who experience recurrence, it occurs in about 50% of cases in the regional lymph node. A reliable preoperative method to evaluate suspicious cases is needed. Dalle *et al.* report their experience of fine-needle aspiration biopsy under ultrasound guidance. This method is efficient for reaching the diagnosis of lymphatic relapse of melanoma or for excluding this hypothesis. This is a low-invasive procedure that permits observation of cellular material from the atypical lymph node, obviating the need for an open biopsy. In their hands this approach is quick, very sensitive (98.2%) and very specific (96.1%). When cytology was positive the skin surrounding the metastatic lymph node was systematically removed during the surgical procedure in order to avoid relapse in the aspiration pathway. *Br J Dermatol* 2006; 155:559–63.

## Ultraviolet A1-induced downregulation of human β-defensins and interleukin-6 and interleukin-8 correlates with clinical improvement in localized scleroderma




Localized scleroderma (LS) is a connective tissue disorder characterized by distinct immunological abnormalities, vascular alteration, and fibrosis of the affected tissue as the most prominent feature. Several proinflammatory cytokines have been demonstrated at increased levels in sera of patients with LS, in parallel with disease activity. Kreuter *et al.* report the effects of low-dose UVA1 phototherapy on TNF-α, TGF-β, IL-2, IL-4, IL-6 and IL-8 as well as human β-defensin (hBD) mRNA expression in both lesional and unaffected skin of patients with LS. In parallel with clinical improvement, hBDs and IL-6 and IL-8 were significantly downregulated by UVA1. Their pathogenetic relevance in respect to clinical improvement needs further investigation. *Br J Dermatol* 2006; 155:607–14.

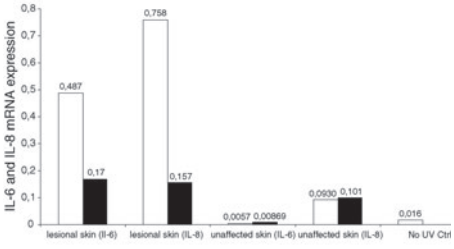
## Overexpression of heat shock protein 105 in skin cancers



Heat shock protein (HSP) 105, a 105-kDa protein, is overexpressed in many internal malignancies. In this study Western blotting and immunohistochemistry were used to study the expression of HSP105 in skin cancers. Results revealed that HSP105 is highly expressed in cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma and extramammary Paget disease but not in basal cell carcinoma. Although surgery is still the mainstay of treatment, new modalities of therapy are required for invasive, recurrent and metastatic disease. Identifying tumours which overexpress HSP105 is the first step towards developing appropriate vaccinations using HSP105. *Br J Dermatol* 2006; 155:589–92.

## Topical methyl aminolaevulinate photodynamic therapy for treatment of facial acne vulgaris: results of a randomized study

There is a need for alternative treatments for moderate to severe acne vulgaris. A new promising therapy is topical photodynamic therapy with methyl aminolaevulinate cream and red light (MAL PDT). Thirty patients with moderate to severe acne in the face were treated twice and followed for 3 months. The study showed that MAL PDT was significantly more efficacious than placebo in treating inflammatory lesions. The mechanism of action is not clearly known, but is suggested to involve photodestruction of bacteria, a specific effect on sebaceous glands and reduction of follicular obstruction. *Br J Dermatol* 2006; 155:615–20.






© 2006 British Association of Dermatologists